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# EPA Grants for Brownfield Assessment, Cleanup, & Revolving Loan Funds (ARC)

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# Any Property Needing Redevelopment Might Be A Brownfield

## In Statute:

- It's a parcel of land or a building, and
- It's abandoned or underutilized, and
- It's known or perceived to be contaminated.

## In Practice:

- It's also a property with a dollar value less than the cost of environmental investigation and cleanup.



# Nearly Any Environmental Problem Can Be Addressed

- Hazardous Substances
- Petroleum Contamination
- Asbestos & Lead Paint
- Controlled Substances (illegal drug labs)
- Hazardous Substances
- Mine-Scarred Lands
- Other environmental contaminants



# Assessment Grant Program

Available to Local Governments for purposes of:

- Investigating possible environmental concerns at a property
- Funding activities necessary for a local brownfield redevelopment program.
- Monitoring the health of local citizens



# Assessment Grant Program

## Grant Types and Purpose:

- Community-Wide Grants, \$400,000
  - Build a local brownfield program
- Coalition Grants, \$600,000
  - Partner with surrounding communities
- Site-Specific Grants, \$350,000
  - Address larger sites



# Assessment Grant Program

- Available only to governments
  - Cities, Towns, Counties, Villages...
  - States and Tribes
  - Councils of Governments
  - Agencies created by State Legislature
- Applicants must obtain a support letter from the State
- Coalition members may not apply for other Assessment Grants



# Letters of Support from DNR

Request should include:

- Type of grant being requested
- Name and address of person to whom the letter should be addressed
- Description of brownfields areas and needs
- Site specific grants must include site address, history of land use, contamination status and BRRS#



# Letters of Support from DNR

- Request should be made at least 2 weeks prior to EPA's application deadline
- One letter of support can serve multiple grant applications
- Submit written request to Christine Haag  
608-266-0244; [christine.haag@wisconsin.gov](mailto:christine.haag@wisconsin.gov)
- For more information:  
[dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/epaGrants.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/epaGrants.html)





# Assessment Grant Program

## Site Eligibility

- Any site being assessed:
  - Must not be on the NPL
  - Must not be under CERCLA order
  - Receives additional scrutiny if:
    - it is subject to RCRA, TSCA, CWA, SDWA cleanup order or permit
    - is a CERCLA Removal Site
    - PCBs have been released
- Grantee must not have contributed to contamination



# Assessment Grant Program

Sites owned by a grantee must also have a CERCLA Liability Defense:

- Acquired Involuntarily, or
- Innocent Landowner, or
- Contiguous Property Owner, or
- Brownfield Bona Fide Prospective Purchaser



# Assessment Grant Program

## A Bona Fide Prospective Purchaser:

- Acquired the site after disposal of any hazardous substances
- Is not affiliated with any party responsible for contamination of the site
- Conducted All Appropriate Inquiry prior to acquisition (which includes donation)
- Prevents any new contamination
- Provides all required notices and cooperates with Environmental Agencies.



# Assessment Grant Program

Site Eligibility Information is:

- Included with the application for Site-Specific Grants
- is submitted after a grant has been awarded for Community-Wide and Coalition projects

States Agencies make eligibility decisions for sites contaminated by petroleum.



# Petroleum Eligibility Determination

The state must determine that the site:

- Has no viable responsible party
- Will not be assessed, investigated or cleaned up by a potentially liable person
- Is of “relatively low risk” (No LUST trust fund money or subject to OPA)
- Is not subject to corrective action under RCRA

**Application:**

[dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/epaGrants.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/epaGrants.html)

**Submit to:** Christine Haag, 608-266-0244,  
[christine.haag@wisconsin.gov](mailto:christine.haag@wisconsin.gov)



# Cleanup Grant Program

- Available to Governments AND Not-For-Profit Organizations
- Funds the activities needed to remediate a site for a new use
  - excavation
  - engineered barriers
  - institutional controls...
- Up to 3 sites at \$200,000 per site



# Cleanup Grant Program

## Eligible Applicants

### ■ Governments

- Cities, Towns, Counties, Townships...
- States and Tribes
- Councils of Governments
- Agencies created by State Legislature

### ■ Not For Profits

- An organization that is operated mainly for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purpose in the public interest



# Cleanup Grant Program

## Eligible Sites:

- Must be owned by the applicant when the application is submitted
- Must not be on the NPL
- Must not be under CERCLA order
- Receive additional scrutiny if:
  - subject to RCRA, TSCA, CWA, SDWA cleanup order or permit
  - CERCLA Removal is on-going
  - PCBs have been released





# Cleanup Grant Program

- Must have required environmental investigation
  - Phase I, and Phase II or equivalent
- Must have a defense against CERCLA liability
  - Acquired Involuntarily, or
  - Innocent Landowner, or
  - Contiguous Property Owner, or
  - Brownfield Bona Fide Prospective Purchaser
- Disposal of all hazardous materials occurred prior to acquisition
- State determines petroleum site eligibility



# Cleanup Grant Program

## Additional Eligibility Requirements

- Support Letter from State
- Process for oversight of cleanup work
- Cost share – 20%
- Community notification
  - Public notice
  - Draft Application and Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives available to the public
  - Public meeting
  - Two week review and comment period



# Revolving Loan Funds-rlf

- Available to Governments
- Grantee provides loans or subgrants to third parties\*
- Funds the activities needed to remediate a site for a new use
- Single applicant can request up to \$1 million. Coalitions can request up to \$1 million per member



# RLF Grant Program

## Eligibility Requirements

- Support letter from State
- Description of Jurisdiction
- Cleanup Oversight and Legal Authorities
- Cost Share – 20%



# RLF Grant Program

## Eligible Borrowers/Subgrant Recipients

- Must own the site during the period of cleanup
- Must have a CERCLA liability defense for the site
- Must not be affiliated with a party responsible for contamination of the site
- Must have acquired the site after all disposal of hazardous substances
- Must conduct community notification of ABCA



# RLF Grant Program

- Determinations of borrower/recipient eligibility conducted after grant has been awarded
- Up to 40% of the Grant may be used for subgrants
- Subgrants can only be made to governments or not for profit organizations
- \$200,000 limit for cleanup grants and/or subgrants to a single site.



# Overview of Grants

	Assessment	Cleanup	RLF
Purpose	Investigation sites and build local program	Remediate known contamination	Address larger sites-create pool of funds
Eligible Applicants	Local, state, special purpose governments	Local, state, special purpose governments, not-for-profits	Local, state, special purpose governments
Maximum award	\$400,000 (Community-wide) \$600,000 (Coalition)	\$600,000 (up to \$200,000 per site/ 3 sites)	\$1 million
Cost Share	None	20%	20%
Site Ownership	Not required*	Grantee	Recipient

# Eligibility Overview

	Assessment	Cleanup	RLF
State Letter	Investigation sites and build local program	Remediate known contamination	Address larger sites-create pool of funds
Site Ownership	Not required*	Grantee	Recipient
CERCLA Defense	Grantee	Grantee	Grantee & recipient
Public Notification	Not required	Before Application	Before Cleanup
Site Investigation		Phase I & II	
Cleanup Oversight & Legal Authorities		With Application	With Application
Site Eligibility Decision	Post Award	At Application	Post Award



# Contacts & Links

**Matt Didier, EPA Region 5**

[didier.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:didier.matthew@epa.gov)

**Christine Haag, DNR**

[christine.haag@wisconsin.gov](mailto:christine.haag@wisconsin.gov)

**Petroleum Eligibility & State Support Letters:**

[dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/epaGrants.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/epaGrants.html)

**EPA Brownfields Grants & Funding:**

[www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/grant\\_info/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/grant_info/index.htm)